
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 10.26.2010

Wall Street Journal: "Buffett Flags a Successor ... Warren Buffett tapped a little-known hedge fund manager as the leading candidate to succeed him as the chief investment officer of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. when the legendary stock picker eventually steps down."

Wall Street Journal: "Geithner's Global Central Planning ... Economists are full of bad ideas. Terrible ideas seem to emerge when the gurus get together to talk about coordinating their bad ideas. Last week's public letter from Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner to the G-20 finance ministers is a great example."

Wall Street Journal: "The Free Checking Restoration Act ... Having largely abandoned attempts to defend ObamaCare in the run-up to next week's election, President Obama and his allies are now warning that opponents will repeal new financial regulations, including those enacted this July in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act."

Washington Post: "Warning signs of foreclosure crisis were ignored, says FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair ... Sheila C. Bair, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., said Monday that federal officials should have recognized "warning signs" in recent years that the mortgage industry was cutting corners in the foreclosure process."

Washington Post: "U.S. probing foreclosure processing firms ... The more banks foreclosed on homes, the more a little-known company in Florida called Lender Processing Services saw its revenue and stock price soar."

Washington Post: "Fed's 'Pit Bull' Takes on Bank of America in BuyBack Battle ... Kathy D. Patrick is a Houston lawyer who spends her Sundays teaching children about God. The rest of the week, according to one attorney who knows her, she can be "as frightening as a pit bull on steroids."

Washington Post: "Report: Treasury's AIG bailout loss estimate too optimistic ... The Treasury Department's recent prediction that taxpayers will lose far less than expected on the bailout of American International Group could prove far too optimistic and relies on different methodology than previous estimates, according to a government watchdog report released Monday."

Washington Post: "Bernanke on U.S. recovery, Federal Reserve policy ... Ben Bernanke doesn't do press conferences. Nor, with rare exceptions, does the Federal Reserve chairman sit for on-the-record interviews."

NY Times: "Rating Agency Raises Outlook for Britain After Cuts ... Britain's deficit-cutting plans got an important vote of confidence Tuesday, as Standard & Poor's said it had raised its outlook for the country's debt and affirmed the AAA credit rating."

NY Times: "Mortgage Modifications Slow in September ... Even as banks, borrowers and regulators battle over how much faulty documentation by lenders should impede foreclosures, fresh evidence came Monday that the housing market remained very wobbly."

NY Times: "Treasury Hid A.I.G. Loss, Report Says ... The United States Treasury concealed \$40 billion in likely taxpayer losses on the bailout of the American International Group earlier this month, when it abandoned its usual method for valuing investments, according to a report by the special inspector general for the Troubled Asset Relief Program."

NY Times: "The Mortgage Morass ... The mortgage mess just keeps getting messier. Last week, Bank of America announced that it had performed a "thorough review" of its processes, found nothing amiss and would soon restart 102,000 pending foreclosures."

LA Times: "Signs of foreclosure paperwork problems were missed, FDIC chief says ... Regulators should have foreseen a wave of suspect foreclosure paperwork coming, a key official admitted Monday as federal banking agencies said they had launched their own in-depth review of the issue."

LA Times: "Lawsuits accuse lenders of sabotaging mortgage modifications ... Financially strapped homeowners struggling to obtain mortgage modifications are taking their frustrations to court, accusing banks and loan servicers of misleading them or breaking promises to help them hold on to their homes."